

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently amended) In a [[A]] fitting for a harness, the fitting being connectable to a first end of a tether anchored at a second of the tether for anchoring a person in the harness, the improvement in the fitting comprising:

a first part secured to or securable to a harness,

a second part connectable to the tether ~~a tether~~, and

a mechanism to releasably interconnect the first and second parts, one of said parts having a plurality of locking apertures and said mechanism comprising:

a plurality of locking members each having a rounded or tapered locking part sized to be received within a respective said locking aperture; and

a locking element moveable between a locking position and a release position, the locking element being configured to urge each locking member into a position in which its locking part is received within a respective said locking aperture when in said locking position but to allow each locking member to move out of said respective locking aperture when in said release position, wherein each said locking aperture defines a respective peripheral seat, and the rounded or tapered locking part of each said locking member is sized to engage a respective said seat when urged into said respective locking aperture but not to pass completely through said seat.

Claim 2 (Previously presented) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein each said locking member is constrained for linear movement towards and away from each respective locking aperture.

Claim 3 (Original) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein said locking element is biased towards said locking position.

Claim 4 (Original) A fitting according to claim 3, wherein said locking element is biased by a spring.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Previously presented) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein each said peripheral seat is substantially circular.

Claim 7 (Original) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein each said locking member is a ball.

Claim 8 (Original) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein each locking member is provided in a linear channel to restrict the locking member to substantially linear movement.

Claim 9 (Original) A fitting according to claim 8, wherein said locking element is arranged for movement between said locked and release positions along an axis substantially perpendicular to the axis of each said channel.

Claim 10 (Original) A fitting according to claim 9, wherein said locking element has a respective bearing surface to bear against each said locking member when the locking element is in said locking position, and a respective recess to receive each said locking member when the locking element is in said release position.

Claim 11 (Previously presented) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein said locking apertures are provided in said second part, and said locking members and said locking element are provided on said first part.

Claim 12 (Previously presented) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein each said locking member is held captive between said locking element and a respective retaining aperture formed in said first part, each said retaining aperture being sized to prevent the respective locking member from passing completely therethrough, while allowing the respective locking member to project sufficiently therethrough to engage a respective seat defined on the second part.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn) A fitting according to claim 6, wherein said locking apertures or recesses are provided in said second part, and said locking members and said locking element are provided on said first part, and wherein each said locking member is held captive between said locking element and a respective retaining aperture formed in said first part, each said retaining aperture being sized to prevent the respective locking member from passing completely therethrough, whilst allowing the respective locking member to project sufficiently therethrough to engage a respective seat defined on the second part, and wherein each said retaining aperture is substantially circular and has a smaller diameter than each said seat.

Claim 14 (Original) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein said second part has a hook for connection to said tether.

Claim 15 (Original) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein said second part has a loop for connection to said tether.

Claim 16 (Original) A fitting according to claim 1 having an actuator button configured to urge said locking element towards said release position when pressed.

Claim 17 (Original) A fitting according to claim 16, wherein said actuator button is formed as part of said locking element.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn) A fitting according to claim 16, comprising a guard arrangement configured to extend at least partly around said actuator button to prevent the button from being accidentally pressed.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of locking apertures or recesses comprise at least one pair of opposed locking apertures or recesses.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn) A fitting according to claim 19 comprising a plurality of said pairs of locking apertures or recesses and a plurality of respective pairs of locking members.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn) A fitting according to claim 19, wherein the locking element is arranged to urge the locking parts of the or each said pair of locking members apart from one another into said respective locking apertures or recesses.

Claim 22 (Previously presented) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein each said locking aperture is provided at a position adjacent at least one other said locking aperture.

Claim 23 (Previously presented) A fitting according to claim 22, wherein said locking apertures are all aligned with one another.

Claim 24 (Original) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of locking apertures are provided through a plate carried by said second part.

Claim 25 (Currently amended) A fitting for a harness, the fitting comprising: a first part secured to or securable to a harness, a second part connectable to a tether, and a mechanism to releasable interconnect the first and second parts, one of said parts having a plurality of locking apertures and said mechanism comprising:

a plurality of locking members each having a rounded or tapered locking part sized to be received within a respective said locking aperture; and

a locking element moveable between a locking position and a release position, the locking element being configured to urge each locking member into a position in which its locking part is received within a respective said locking aperture when in said locking position but to allow each locking member to move out of said respective locking aperture when in said release position, wherein each said locking aperture defines a respective peripheral seat, and the rounded or tapered locking part of each said locking member is sized to engage a respective said seat when urged into said respective locking aperture but not to pass completely through said seat, and ~~A fitting according to claim 1,~~ wherein the locking element is arranged to urge at least two of said locking members towards one another in order that their locking parts become received within respective said locking apertures.

Claim 26 (Currently amended) A fitting for a harness, the fitting comprising: a first part secured to or securable to a harness, a second part connectable to a tether, and

a mechanism to releasable interconnect the first and second parts, one of said parts having a plurality of locking apertures and said mechanism comprising:

a plurality of locking members each having a rounded or tapered locking part sized to be received within a respective said locking aperture; and

a locking element moveable between a locking position and a release position, the locking element being configured to urge each locking member into a position in which its locking part is received within a respective said locking aperture when in said locking position but to allow each locking member to move out of said respective locking aperture when in said release position, wherein each said locking aperture defines a respective peripheral seat, and the rounded or tapered locking part of each said locking member is sized to engage a respective said seat when urged into said respective locking aperture but not to pass completely through said seat, wherein the locking element is arranged to urge at least two of said locking members towards one another in order that their locking parts become received within respective said locking apertures, and A fitting according to claim 25, wherein three locking apertures are provided, and three locking members are provided, two of said locking members being arranged to move in the same direction as one another towards respective locking apertures.

Claim 27 (Previously presented) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein the locking element is arranged to urge at least two of said locking members in the same direction as one another in order that their locking parts become received within respective said locking apertures.

Claim 28 (Original) A harness provided with a fitting according to claim 1.

Claim 29 (New) A fitting according to claim 1, wherein the locking element is arranged to urge at least two of said locking members away from one another in order that their locking parts become received within respective said locking apertures.